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The Voice of Integrity
at Fort Hays State University

December 5, 2006; Volume 2, Issue 7 Hays, Kansas 67601

Former FHSU President Tomanek dies at 85

Zach Becker
Editor

Dr. Gerald W. "Jerry" Tomanek, former Fort Hays State University President, died Nov. 29 in Olathe at his home at the age of 85.

Tomanek served at Fort Hays State for more than 40 years, including his time as the university's 7th president from 1976-1987, at which time he retired.

"Jerry Tomanek was a teacher, a scholar and a leader of our university for a long time, and even in retirement he continued to provide advice and assistance to me that were invaluable," said current Fort Hays State President Ed Hammond, who succeeded Tomanek. "He will truly be missed."

Tomanek is the namesake for science building, Tomanek Hall, which was dedicated in 1995.

Tomanek graduated from Fort Hays State in 1942 with a bachelor of science degree and in 1947 with a master's degree, both in botany.

He received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 1951. He served as a Marine captain during World War II.

He started at Fort Hays State in 1947 as an instructor of biological sciences. He eventually became a professor, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, chair of the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics, vice president for academic affairs and, in 1976, president. He served as president until his retirement in 1987.

Tomanek's students remember him fondly.

"He was the best teacher I have ever seen," said Dr. Gene Fleharty, professor emeritus of biological sciences. "He was

fantastic in both the classroom and the field with his students."

Tomanek was an expert on prairies and grasslands. He served as a consultant for Argentine farmers and ranchers and for CBS television on a special program.

"He was a brilliant scholar, which earned him a national reputation as a grassland expert," said Bob Lowen, retired director of University Relations.

While serving as president, Tomanek laid the groundwork for moving the university ahead in computer technology by securing a large federal grant for upgrading campus computer facilities.

He also led the charge to increase the institution's budget, helped increase the stu-

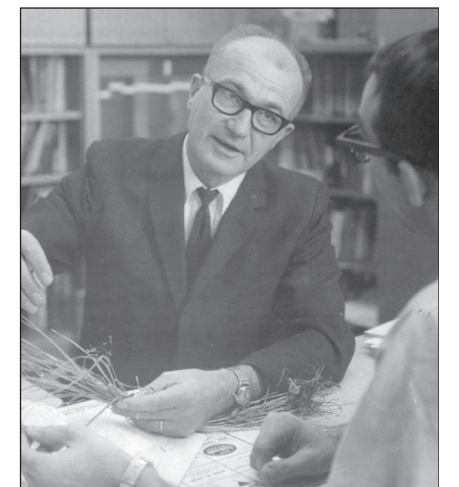
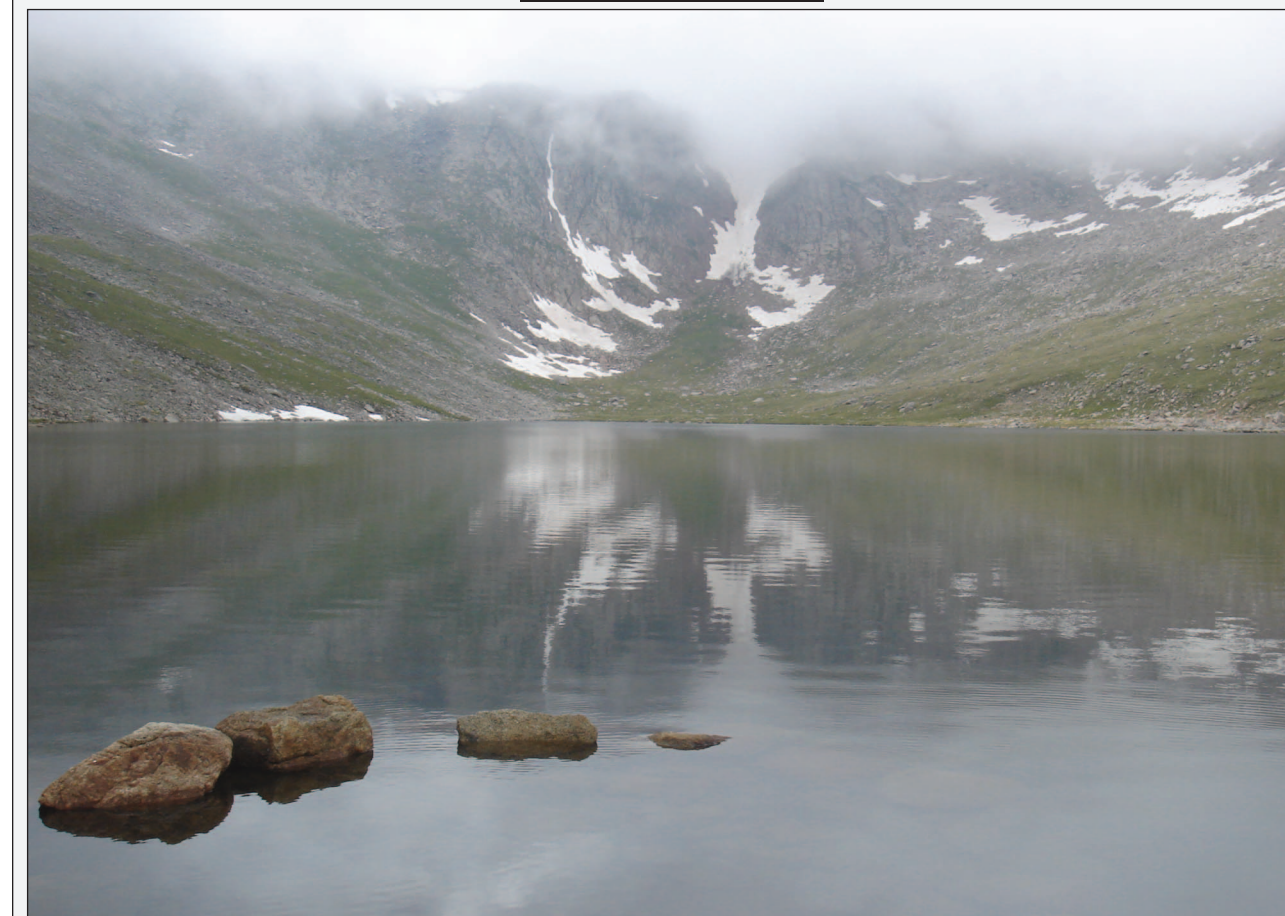


PHOTO COURTESY FORSYTH LIBRARY
Dr. Gerald Tomanek identifies a native plant of Kansas during his time as a professor of biology in 1972.

SEE 'TOMANEK'
ON PAGE 7

A Thousand Words



A foggy day is observed in front of Summitt Lake near the top of Mt. Evans close to Aspen Park Colorado in July 2006.

UAB provides entertainment

Mike Courson
Staff Writer

Comedy, music, movies. These are just a few types of entertainment provided to students by the University Activities Board.

"The organization has grown both in the number of members and in the number and variety of programs it sponsors," said Carol Brock, who has been advisor to UAB since 1990. According to UAB President Andy Smriga, between 20 and 30 students are currently involved in the UAB organization.

Performance acts are often chosen from the National Association of Campus Activities conference. This year, the conference was held in

Little Rock, Arkansas. At these conferences, universities get to see a variety of comedians, musicians, and other performers. They also get to talk to agents and other universities to get lower rates on the performances. "We try to program a real diverse variety of programs to make them interesting for all types of people and personalities," Smriga said.

While all may not immediately recognize the names of the comedians sponsored by UAB, they are a talented bunch. Many of the comedians to visit Fort Hays State have been featured on shows like Comedy

SEE 'UAB'
ON PAGE 7

EDITORIAL

Solar cells should be installed on campus

As we prepare to enter the year 2007, Fort Hays State University is already changing with the times, implementing the mobile computing initiative. Now, its time to extend this transition and stay ahead of the curve once again by implementing a comprehensive clean energy plan for the campus. While the idea of building a wind generating station has been brought up before, the installation of solar energy collectors is another idea that is worthy of examination. Basically, solar cells convert photons from the sun into electricity. This electricity is stored in a battery for later use. The technology is very common in calculators and other small devices, but the cost of larger, more powerful solar equipment has decreased as technology has progressed. Creating this plan could be a great learning experience for students. A good first step in this clean energy plan might be to replace all outdoor campus lights with solar powered units. Later, the goal could then be to outfit all campus buildings with rooftop solar cells. Although the initial cost of implementing these clean energy solutions would be high, the energy savings, especially as the cost of fossil fuels continues to rise, would eventually make the investment well worth it. As well, a slow implementation of the plan would break the cost of implementation enough where it can be feasible. Let the light shine in.

-The Editorial Board

OPINION

Live winter break to its fullest

Winter Break is just around the corner and what better time to feel a little sentimental? The weather has cooled, the leaves fallen and only a few snowflakes could enhance that feeling. I say savor the feeling, it may never come again. Undoubtedly, you will enjoy the break in classes, but Winter Break offers so much more. To start with, get home. Or stay out all night with your friends. Whichever you choose, make sure you take time to enjoy all the time and freedom you have. Later, you may have bosses or families that look down upon this. I remember staying up all night at work watching movies, then driving home at six in the morning, catching a few hours of sleep, then going out to eat with my sister. Maybe it was the lack of sleep, perhaps the pizza, but I've rarely felt as good as I did that first day of my first break. The second key to enjoying the break is finding something you enjoy but have not had time to do. Don't sit in front of the computer all day complaining about how little there is to do. Instead, stay in bed an hour longer. Read a book for pleasure. Go rent a movie. I averaged about two movies a day and it taught me something: when

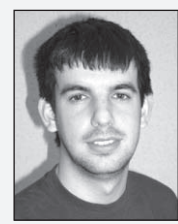


Mike Courson
Staff Writer

things get hectic, taking time to get lost in a movie kills stress. That information is far more important than the quadratic equation I learned and never use. If you go out, spend as much time as you possibly can with old friends. Most of your friends will come back for the big breaks during the school year. After college, however, many will go their separate ways and hometown visits will be few and far between. These breaks may be the last time your group will be in town together. Make sure you take advantage of this time. If at some point you stumble across an old classmate you didn't really talk to, take the time to catch up. High school was full of petty drama. Hopefully, even after just one semester, you've put this behind you. So often, that classmate you ignored in high school turns

out to be a pretty decent person. You just didn't know it back then because it wasn't cool to be friendly to everyone. Finally, remember what the holidays are really about. You probably cannot afford to buy the greatest Christmas gifts, especially if you're spending all your money at the bar. Don't worry about this. Your family is just glad to have you home for a month. Besides, that \$13 snow globe you are thinking about buying your sister will just sit on a shelf and collect dust. She'd appreciate that \$8 FHSU T-Shirt just like her big brother wears far more! You can afford to be cheap as long as you are a joy to have around the house. Now you're ready for break, but before you leave, say goodbye. You may never have that professor you've enjoyed so much for another class. That kid down the hall you never talked to but always acknowledged may drop out at semester. Worst of all, accidents happen. College kids are driving hundreds of miles, sometimes in adverse conditions. Bad things can happen. Don't take anyone for granted. Happy breaking. Now go eat, sleep, and relax.

More than just a Wii bit of fun



Zach Becker
Editor

I think Nintendo has a hit on its hands. If you haven't yet played Nintendo's new Wii video game console (pronounced "we"), you need to and you'll understand. Jokes about its very strange name aside, the Wii could soon be one of the hottest items in consumer electronics. I managed to nab one over Thanksgiving break and I've been thoroughly impressed. About the size of three DVD cases stacked together with all-white styling like an I-Pod, the Wii looks very sleek. Turn on the machine and prepare to be exposed to an all-new way of playing video games. I've been playing games since I was 5-years old, but this is totally unique. The control device looks like a TV

remote and is very simple, a big departure from the complicated setups of most modern game systems. The real revolution here, though, is the motion sensing technology found inside the remotes. All you need to do is put a small sensor bar on top of the TV and you're ready to go. The Wii comes with a game called Wii Sports. Tennis? Swing the remote to

hit the ball, but be careful because the strength and direction you swing make a big difference. Bowling? Stand in front of your TV and release the ball, just like in real life. Don't put too much curve on it, though. Baseball? Hold the remote just like a bat and watch the ball carefully. Get four people together and, while you may look ridiculous, you'll also be having a ridiculously fun time. And it's not just for gaming aficionados, either. My fiance never plays games, yet she picked it up and now can't get enough. To top it off, the Wii comes at an affordable \$250 price tag (compared to the \$500 Playstation 3). If you buy one, you won't Wii-gret it.

Tomanek

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

-dent scholarship program, enhanced faculty and staff salaries, saw three new buildings added to the campus and presided over numerous other renovations. "He was the most humane administrator I have ever had the opportunity to work with," said Dr. Jim Murphy, retired faculty member and administrator who served as provost and chair of the Department of Educational Ad-

ministration and Counseling. "He never forgot that he was a faculty member."

After retiring, Tomanek served on the board of directors for the Hansen Foundation, giving scholarships to many students from western Kansas. He also served on the FHSU Endowment Association Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1999, when he became an emeritus member.

Memorial services were held Sunday in Olathe.

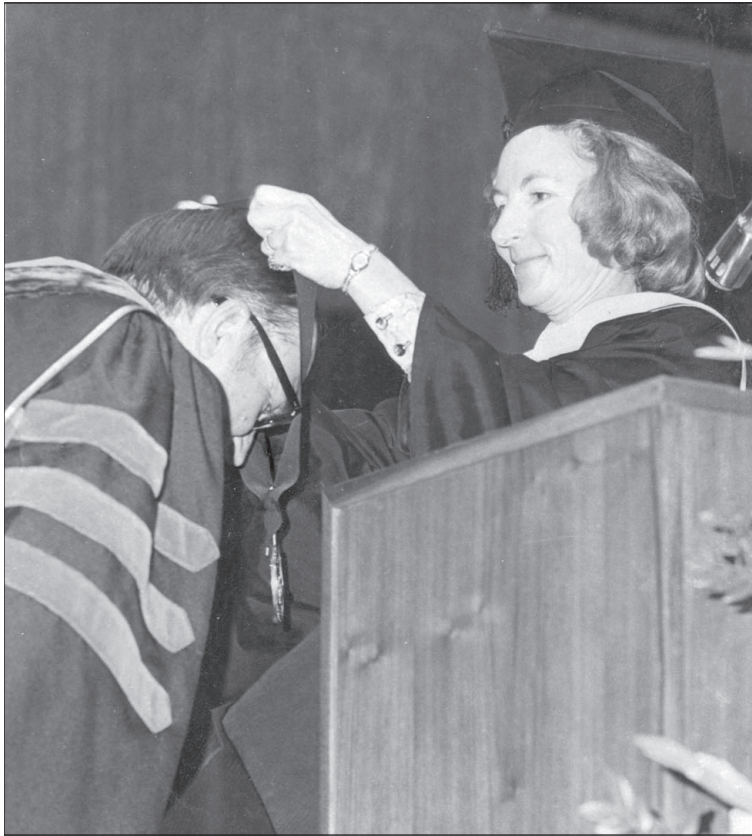


PHOTO COURTESY FORSYTH LIBRARY

Dr. Gerald Tomanek receives a medal during his inauguration as university president in 1976.

▼Leadership Studies

Students look to improve downtown Hays

Zach Becker
Editor

Students in the Leadership Studies department have been surveying students to find ways to improve downtown Hays. "We wanted to gather information from the campus students so that we could make some recommendations that would benefit the Chestnut Street District," said Sam Callendar, a member of the Chestnut Street Improvement Team. "This project is trying to benefit the downtown area including the business owners and the customers as well."

The team is from Curt Brungardt's Field

Work in Leadership class and they hope the information will help the Chestnut Street District and the Hays Chamber of Commerce to retain and recruit businesses downtown. "Downtown has a lot more unique stores and unique products that a place like Wal-Mart would not have," Callendar said. "A place like Simply Charmed tends to have more personal items that are specifically handmade instead of cheap 'corporate made' items from Wal-Mart. These stores are unique only to Hays." Overall, results from the 129-person survey indicated that almost 60 percent of

the participants shop or eat downtown at least once a month and about 35 percent generally spend less than \$10. Almost 70 percent of the participants purchased food downtown, while only about 20 percent purchased gifts, cards or jewelry. Almost 20 percent of the participants said they wanted to see more store variety downtown. A downtown student center was also proposed on the survey, and a little over 60 percent of participants said they would be drawn to the center by live music, while other answers included a snack bar and an internet café, as well as pre-game and post-game rallies.

"We are confident that the information we collected from all the surveys will serve as a catalyst for improvement in the near future for the Chestnut Street District," Callendar said. Members of the team include Callendar, Dave Lantz, Jeremy Schumacher and Landon Taylor. "This project forced us to use all of the leadership techniques we have learned in the previous leadership courses," Callendar said. "Leadership is more than just managing your workload and getting your work done. It involves strategic thinking and the ability to motivate yourself and the people around you."

NEWS

UAB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Central Presents and on HBO.

One of Smriga's favorite events was the Ghost Hunter presentation by Peter Jordan in October. While many performers fill only a portion of the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center,

The Center was packed for the Jordan presentation. "It's really rewarding when people in the community come out to watch," said Smriga. "You know you are doing something for the community."

UAB activities wrap up this semester on Wednesday with Creation Station at Cody Commons in the Union from noon to 2 p.m. Creation Station is a once-a-month activity that allows students to express themselves artistically.

This week, students can make holiday ornaments and cards. Previous activities included picture-frame making and pumpkin painting. All supplies are provided to

the students, and the first 50 students to arrive each month receive a free drink and sub from Mondo Subs.

Next semester is full of UAB activities. In January, critically acclaimed comedian, lecturer, and activist Preacher Moss will speak at Cody Commons. In February, just in time for Valentine's Day, The Dating Doctor will be at Beach/Schmidt to share his love secrets. The movie "Hitch" will also be shown at Cody Commons on Valentine's Day. In March, comedy hypnotist Frederick Winters will perform at Beach/Schmidt.

Jamaican Me Crazy is a week-long event near the end of the school year. UAB plays a large role in providing entertainment for students that week. This year, a drive-in movie will be shown, a double feature comedian and band will perform and Tiger Idol, FHSU's version of American Idol, will be held. The week is topped

off with a Luau.

Smriga encourages student to participate in UAB sponsored events because they have already paid for them.

Every student pays fees that go toward student activities.

UAB meetings are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m., in the UAB office in the lower meeting room of the Union.

The meetings are free to attend, and students can join UAF for \$10, which is used for snack at meetings and awards for members.

"All programming decisions are made by the members of UAB," Brock said. Because of UAB's new office on the lower level of the Memorial Union, Brock expects the organization's growth to continue. "We are in close proximity to the Center for Student Involvement and SGU and want to collaborate with the other student organizations on programs of interest."



COURTESY PHOTO
Members of the University Activities Board sit down for a meal during the 2006 National Association for Campus Activities convention.



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▼Brandon's Reality Check

Holcomb power plant expansion not hazardous

I agree with Steve Miller of Sunflower Electric wholeheartedly.


Now would be a great time for western Kansas natives to boycott the cities of Lawrence, Topeka and Salina, in whatever way we can.

For these people, located all the way on the other side of the state to stick their nose in business not pertaining to them is ludicrous.

For those of you who don't know the gossip, the cities of Lawrence, Salina and now Topeka are opposing the construction of three new 700-megawatt coal-fired power units at the Sunflower Electric Holcomb Station, which currently houses a 360-megawatt coal-burning unit.

While the basis for the opposition seems legitimate, it's a little unfounded in principle. It's also a little ridiculous if you ask me.

These geniuses cite global warming and mercury deposits as



Brandon Worf
Staff Writer

their main reasons for protest, but fail to even realize that they're worrying about something that hasn't been an issue with the current plant for the last 20 years.

I was born and raised in Garden City and not once in my 23 years of existence was there an extensive worry about mercury levels, carbon dioxide or aquifer depletion from anyone in the entire state.

Magically, 23 years later, with a huge global warming bandwagon to jump on, everyone seems to oppose anything that would appear to be a contributor to the issue, including this one.

If they did their research a lit-

tle better, though, they wouldn't be so quick to deny western Kansas the economic opportunity of the decade.

The Holcomb Plant, which became operational in August of 1983, is easily one of the cleanest coal-burning plants in the country.

Anybody who's been around it for a length of time knows this. In fact, most of the stuff coming out of the stack is nothing but steam.

If anything else manages to get past the sulfur scrubbers, it's most likely small amounts of carbon dioxide.

Honestly, I'd not heard a thing about mercury being an issue until now, and I don't have the slightest idea as to why it's even being raised.

As for the purported "aquifer depletion", well, that's an issue being contested by the very people who are guilty of doing it themselves: the farmers who are over-pumping the very aquifer

they seek to protect.

The way it stands, this expansion will not only consume less water, it will reduce the amount being consumed to less than is being used now by the single unit in existence.

If it's going to reduce water usage, what's the big deal? Last I checked, that was actually a good thing, but apparently these complete idiots in Lawrence and Salina have no idea what they're talking about.

What's more, these loons want to deny the very people that this will be affecting (which does not include them) the opportunity to actually *gain* something in terms of economic benefits (which includes hundreds of jobs, both directly and indirectly resulting from construction and operation of the plant), which we've been hard up for the last few years.

Unlike those out east, we don't have a handful of large metropolitan areas to generate tax revenue

and commercial interest, so we must take what we can get. But try explaining that to the disillusioned nutcases in Kansas' very own hippie town.

It's one thing to provide solid, factual arguments in opposition of such an ordeal as this, but to base your whole argument on what amounts to nothing more than simple doomsday theorizing is not only ill-advised, it's laughable.

My suggestion to those worried about global warming in Lawrence: try organizing something that would be more practical (and effective against global warming), like reducing traffic, which arguably contributes far more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere than what this single plant expansion could even come close to.

Don't try to screw the rest of your fellow Kansans out of a good opportunity when it is none of your business.

Parking situation ridiculous

While Fort Hays State University is the home of "Affordable Success", the parking situation on campus also makes it home to "Affordable Headaches."

The campus has seen major growth and expansion in recent years, but unfortunately the parking lots have not seen the same expansion.

The parking situation is bad enough that any student within a mile of campus usually will just walk to their classes, whether it's raining, snowing, below zero, or even if the person is sick.

A while back, heavy sheets of ice covered the ground for weeks, and I can still remember all the times I slipped and fell walking through the path right in front of Eighth Street.

Students living in the dorms must buy a parking permit just to park in front of the dorms where



Jeremy Scott Lovin
Staff Writer

they live. Since the permits don't allow dorm students to park anywhere else on campus, they have no choice but to walk. And even the dorm parking is no walk in the park. I learned the first few weeks of school not to move my van from behind McMindes Hall because it was really hard to find another parking space even remotely close. I remember driving around for an hour one night to find a reasonable parking space.

Worse yet, parking in back of Custer Hall is for staff only from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., so if you get one of those spots at night you could

still be in trouble. I found out the hard way it's a \$35 ticket if you don't move to another parking space by 7 a.m.

As a last resort, Wiest Hall has a large parking lot two blocks away. But if you've by some weird chance been out buying groceries or something, I hope you don't mind carrying it all the way to the front door.

It seems all the good parking spaces are reserved for staff or other specific needs. Basically, students can park behind Rarick hall or next to the union or maybe next to Malloy and Tomanek. Of course, that is only if you have the correct zone permit or have health problems and need a handicap parking permit.

Some crafty students have even found others students' zone permits or gotten their hands on staff parking permits, although

this can get you in a lot of trouble. And if you happen to park in the wrong zone, guess what? You get a pretty little \$35 ticket. While a ticket can be appealed and they can't take you to jail for not paying them off, the school can fine you additional fees, put a hold on your transcript and refuse to allow you to enroll the next semester. You'd think they'd cut people some slack given the lack of parking.

Walking to class may not be a big deal for most students, but some of us with health problems, or who have busy work schedules or who just hate walking when it 15 degrees outside find ourselves in conflict with the situation.

I hope in the near future the college will look for a better solution to parking permits than rigid rules that only hurt the school and students who make our school great.



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Men fall short against Lopers

Cole Reif
Sports Editor

Kearney, Nebraska and Hays are separated by almost one-hundred-fifty miles on the map, yet you wouldn't guess it based on the rivalry the teams share. Both teams continue to go to ever-greater lengths just to see the other struggle or lose. On Sunday night, Nebraska-Kearney got the last laugh as they trumped Fort Hays State in a close game, 70-65.

"It seems like we've always had a lot games like this with Kearney," head coach Mark Johnson said in his post-game interview on Tiger Radio Mix 103. "Feels like we come up short more times than we would like. I really thought the difference in the game was we didn't come up with any stops in the last five minutes."

The heated rivalry was rekindled in the 111th meeting between the two programs. In

previous years when both were members of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, these two schools received the opportunity to play each other twice a year. Now, with Fort Hays State switching over to the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, the two schools will have to make the most of one meeting a year in a home/away agreement.

The Tigers, ranked No. 10 in the nation, held a one-point lead going into halftime against the Lopers, 32-31.

Nebraska-Kearney opened the second half on a 12-2 run to take a 43-34 lead over the Tigers. Seven of the 12 points scored in the run were put in by Lopers' freshman Drake Beranek, who finished with a game-high 19 points.

The senior from Beloit, Jeff Pruitt, calmly knocked down two free-throws to pull the Tigers within seven, 48-41 with

less than 13 minutes to go in the second half. Pruitt capped the night off with a team-high 16 points along with 7 rebounds and 5 blocks.

Fort Hays State then went on a 9-2 run, highlighted by four points coming from freshman Matt Stramel, to cut the lead to one, 53-52, with 7:21 remaining.

"Those guys are doing a great job for us; probably doing better than we could imagine at this stage of their career," Johnson commented on the play of his freshmen.

It would be a seesaw battle until the end from that point. The game saw eight lead changes and eight instances where the score was tied.

The Tigers earned their first lead since the end of the first half at the 2:21 mark when Anthony Grant knocked down a jumper putting the Tigers up in front 65-64. Grant had one of his best performances of the year, garnering his first double-double. The transfer from Washington State University chipped in ten points and pulled down ten rebounds.

"He played harder for us tonight," Johnson stated. "He got a double-double; can't really complain about that."

The Lopers would take the lead back on a pair of Dusty Jura free-throws with under two minutes to play. The Tigers could not connect on their next possession down the court and missed two critical defensive rebounds on the Lopers next possession that eventually sealed the ball game.

"It's what you do on the defensive end, not the offensive end," Johnson said. "There was a loose ball there late and we don't get on the floor and get it. We gave up offensive rebounds when you can't afford at that stage of the game to do that."

The Tiger defense forced Nebraska-Kearney into a long three-point attempt that misfired but Jura picked up the first offensive rebound resetting the shot clock for the Lopers with less than forty-five seconds to go. The Lopers dwindled the

clock all the way down to fewer than twenty seconds before Jura tossed up a shot that did not hit the rim and was rebounded once again by a Loper, Chad Burger, who did not realize the ball failed to draw iron. An official time out was called to determine whether or not the Lopers shot clock should be reset. The officials decided to put four seconds on the shot clock and sixteen seconds on the game clock.

The Tigers, trailing by one, needed a stop but could not slow down Nebraska-Kearney off the inbounds pass. Senior James Lane sank a floater from inside the lane to give the Lopers a three-point advantage, 68-65, with less than 10 seconds remaining.

Fort Hays State received one last shot to send the game into overtime, but Loranja Owens' 3-point prayer fell short. Mark Johnson, in his sixth season as head coach, was a perfect 33-0 in non-conference games at Gross Memorial Coliseum coming into Sunday evening's game against Nebraska-Kearney.

Two free throws by Avery Stephenson finished out the game, giving the Lopers a 70-65 victory over Fort Hays State.

"We have to improve; we have to come to practice everyday to improve," Johnson said. "If we're not improving, we'll be right where we're at. I think we all know we have to get better."

The Tigers shot 44 percent from the field including 73 percent from the free-throw line. Owens ended the night with six points to go along with his five assists.

Nebraska-Kearney has now beaten the Tigers twice in the past 10 months on their home court. Last year, the Lopers won at Gross Memorial 70-66, giving the Tigers their only loss in the RMAC.

Fort Hays State falls to 5-1 on the season and now will receive a break before starting conference play this Saturday on the road against Emporia State University. Tip-off at White Auditorium is set for 7:30 p.m.



BRANDON WORF/THE EDGE
Far above, Tiger forward John Rogers makes a layup against Bethany College at Gross Memorial Coliseum. Immediately above, Rogers shoots a free throw against Bethany. Fort Hays State won the game, 96-45.

SPORTS



Lady Tiger's halftime surge trumps Nebraska-Kearney

Erika Toepfer
Sports Writer

The Lady Tigers stood their ground Sunday afternoon against the University of Nebraska-Kearney and were able to walk away with the win, 81-69.

The Tigers were trailing as much as 12 points in the game but managed to finish on top. The lead changed four times throughout the game. Fort Hays State was able to score 30 points off of turnovers from the Lady Lopers, as well as eight points off of fast breaks. During the first half, the

Lady Tigers were down by 10, 26-36, but after that, the Lopers crumbled through the sheer force of will of the Tigers.

The Lady Tigers came out of the locker room ready to remind their opponents that they were playing in front of the home Hays crowd.

Fort Hays racked up an additional 55 points, leaving UNK dry with only 33 points. The boisterous student body filled the stands and seemed to give an assist to the Lady Tigers.

Coming into the game, Tiger coach Annette Wiles

was looking for an emphasis on defense, rebounding and precise execution of the plays.

In the second half, the Lady Tigers came out with an effective back and forth scoring method, as Bancroft and Gustin were able to shut down the Lopers and put the Tigers back in the game. Rausch was 4-of-5 from the arc. Ashlee Gustin led the team with 29 points, followed by Naomi Bancroft with 22 and Katie Rausch with 16. Meshia Mason had a team high 11 assists.

"So far I am very pleased with these girls," Wiles said.

"I mean, you can't ask for more when they are coming out every game busting their ends to win and working hard for playing time. The main thing is they're having fun and I'm having fun coaching them."

Prior to the game, Katie Rausch was nominated by Western Beverage as Student of the Week.

The Lady Tigers are 6-0 and leading in the MIAA. Fort Hays plays Newman University on Wednesday at home and then will go on the road Saturday to face the No. 1 ranked team, Emporia State.

BRANDON WORF/THE EDGE
At left, a giant tiger head looms large in the background as Fort Hays competes against Stephens College at Gross Memorial Coliseum. Below, guard Kayla Klug shoots against Stephens College. The Lady Tigers won the game, 116-28.



▼Wrestling

10 Tigers place at Saturday's FHSU-Bob Smith Open

Cole Reif
Sports Editor

The Fort Hays State wrestling team has to be feeling good after ten Tigers placed at the FHSU – Bob Smith Open on Saturday.

Twenty-one Tigers competed at the only home meet before break.

They took one championship, three second-place finishes, three third-place finishes and finally three fourth-place finishes.

Fort Hays State has competed in two opens following the Black and Gold scrimmage and have been missing some of their key performers on the roster.

Head coach Cody Bickley was definitely excited for some of those guys to back in action.

"We had some guys that hadn't seen much mat time, so we were anxious to get them back in the tournament," Bickley said. "We're looking forward to progressing and getting into the dual-season next semester."

Mikel Delk was named the Most Valuable Wrestler of the open as he won the 149-pound weight class.

The senior from Shiatook, Okla., comes into the season as the top-ranked wrestler in his weight division.

Delk, a leader on this year's squad, will be looked upon along with the rest of the upperclassman to continue to lead way throughout the season.

"They've been around. They know how to win. They're placing in tournaments," Bickley commented on his team leaders. "These

tournaments are a grind. It's a long day and they get a lot of matches played.

"It's a lot of mental toughness in these types of situations. Mikel was in his first tournament back and won his division. I'm excited for him in a good tournament."

Danny Grater ended the day's events with a second-place finish in the 157-pound weight class.

Grater fell in the finals to Central Oklahoma's Jason Leavitt in a 3-2 decision.

Nationally-ranked Andrew Ubben also dropped his match in the finals in the 285-pound weight class.

No. 3-ranked Ubben lost in overtime in a sudden victory, 3-1.

Junior Troy Medill rounded out the second-place finishes as he lost in the championship round of the 174-pound weight class.

Coach Bickley realizes his team needs to work on a few things but feels his team is right in stride this early on in the season.

"We're working on our conditioning," he said. "We're right where we want to be at this time of the year."

"We're not making as many little mistakes as we were making early on in the year, so if we keep cleaning up on those things we'll be just fine. I thought we did that today."

The Fort Hays State Tiger wrestling team looks to build on their performance and will compete in one more open before Christmas break.

They will travel to Kearney to participate in the Nebraska-Kearney Open on Saturday.

BRANDON WORF/THE EDGE
The Tiger men's basketball team huddles before a game.